

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE DIVISION[645]

### Notice of Intended Action

**Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”**

**Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.**

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 148C.3, the Board of Physician Assistants hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 327, “Practice of Physician Assistants,” Iowa Administrative Code.

This rule making removes the requirement that a physician assistant who is practicing in a remote medical site must have a supervising physician physically visit and practice at the remote medical site at least every two weeks.

The current requirement that physicians leave their practice and travel to remote medical sites creates a financial burden. With advances in technology, the need for supervising physicians to be physically present has changed. With enhancements in medical care, including electronic medical records, cell phones, fax, and real-time audiovisual interaction via electronic means, appropriate supervision can occur effectively when the physician is not physically present at the practice location. In addition, effective July 11, 2014, the federal requirement that a physician be physically on site in a rural health clinic every two weeks was removed. Compared to the site visitation requirements of surrounding states, Iowa’s site visitation requirement is the most restrictive. This rule making seeks to bring Iowa’s requirements up to date with advances in technology and current national practice standards.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed amendment on or before December 16, 2014, addressed to Tony Alden, Professional Licensure Division, Department of Public Health, Lucas State Office Building, 321 E. 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075. Comments may be sent by e-mail to [tony.alden@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:tony.alden@idph.iowa.gov).

A public hearing will be held on December 16, 2014, from 9 to 9:30 a.m. in the Fifth Floor Professional Licensure Conference Room, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing. At the hearing, persons will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the amendment. Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements, such as those relating to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Division and advise of specific needs.

The proposed amendment is subject to the waiver provisions at 645—Chapter 18.

After analysis and review of this rule making, there is a potential for a positive impact on jobs with increased utilization of physician assistants in rural health clinics.

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code section 148C.3.

The following amendment is proposed.

Amend subrule 327.4(2) as follows:

**327.4(2)** A supervising physician must ~~visit a remote site to provide additional medical direction, medical services and consultation at least every two weeks or less frequently as specified in special circumstances in accordance with the requirements in 645—subrule 326.8(4) and subrule 327.1(1). When visits are less frequent than every two weeks in unusual or emergency circumstances, the board shall be notified in writing of these circumstances.~~ provide additional medical direction, medical services and consultation at least every two weeks or less frequently as specified in special circumstances in accordance with the requirements in 645—subrule 326.8(4) and subrule 327.1(1).